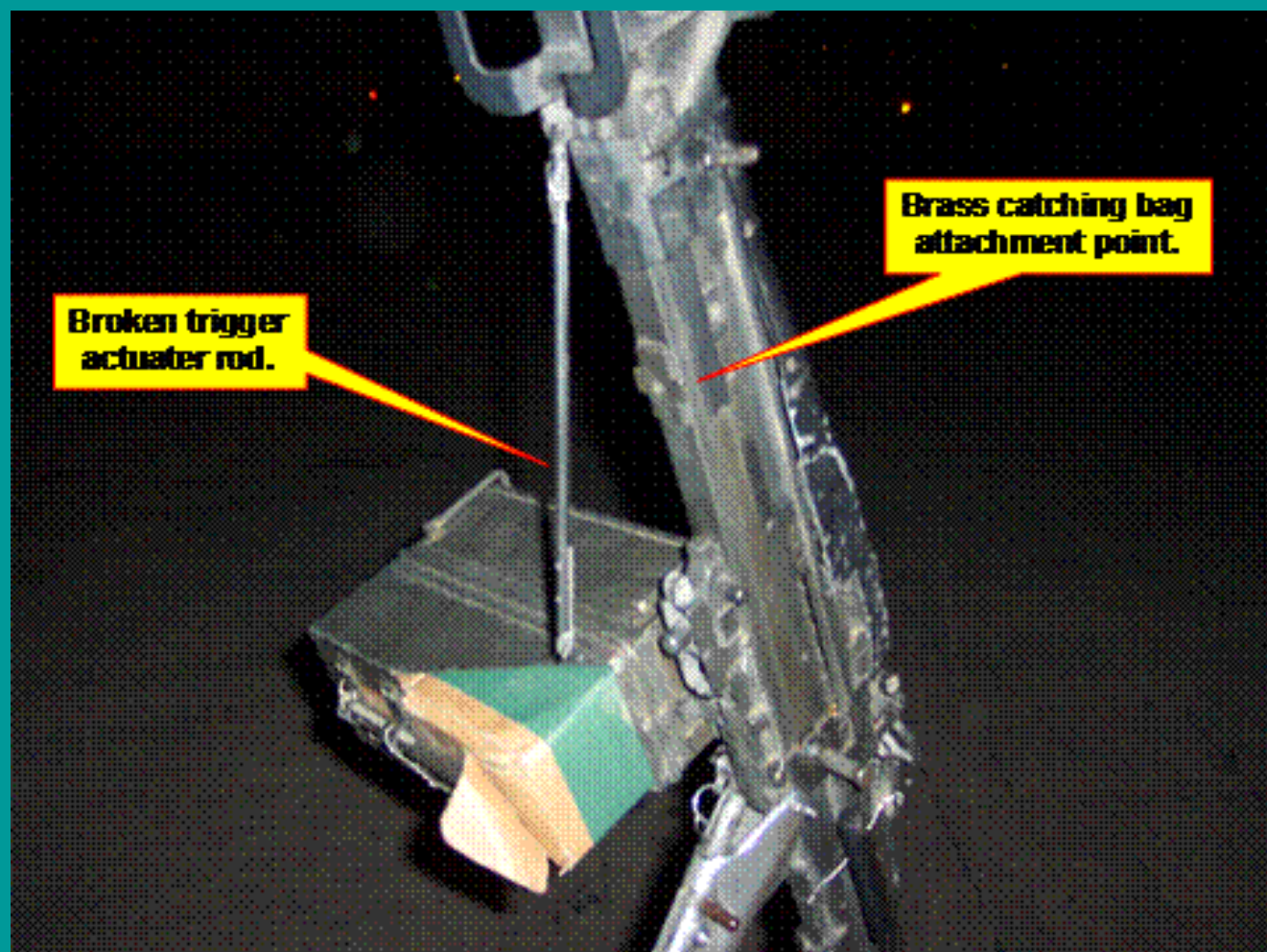


# Runaway M60 Machine Gun

At 010545C Feb 05, callsign 34 (Tail #xxx), flying 300' AGL, 110kts, HDG Approx 170 degrees, on NVG with a Lunar Illum 55%, experienced a weapon system malfunction on the left M60D gun while leaving FOB xxxxxx for FOB xxxxxx. The A/C was coming out of a right turn after crossing the river, when the wind caught the brass bag of the weapon. The frame of the bag buckled and came loose from the mount. When the bag broke free, it acted as a lever on the trigger actuator and caused the gun to fire although the gunner never had his finger on the trigger actuator. The gunner removed the bag from the position it was jammed in and the trigger actuator broke free stopping the gun. At that point, the gunner was able to watch the tracers burn out. Since the gun was level, the path of the bullets appeared to go over and past the lightly populated area to the left. Impact of the rounds on the ground could not be verified because of tracer burnout. The gunner was able to clear the weapon and return it to service at FOB xxxxxx upon landing.



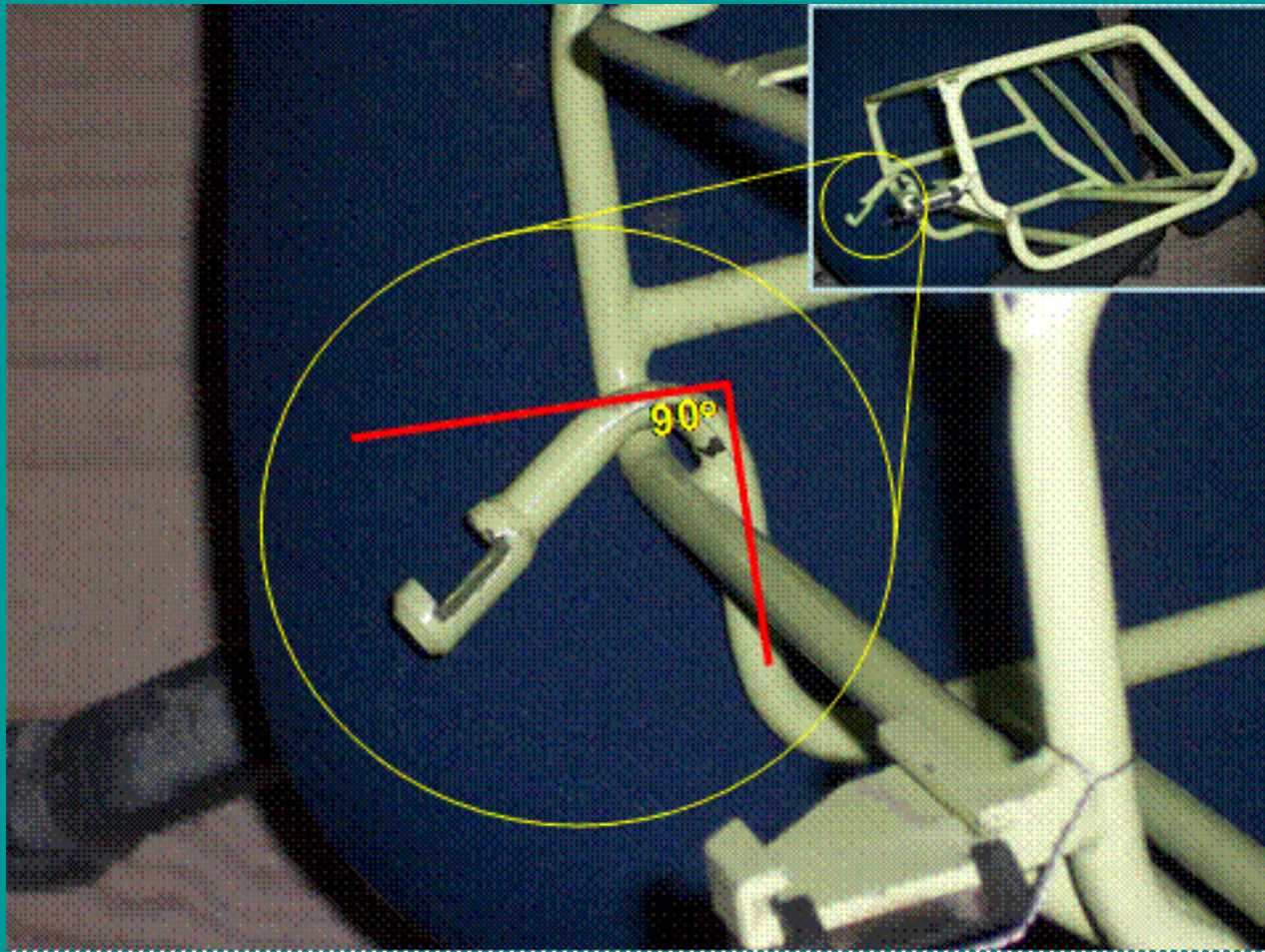
**Left-side M60D brass-catching bag fitting came disconnected from machinegun attachment point during forward flight. Wind from airspeed pushed bag to rear, which in turn applied pressure downward on the trigger actuator rod resulting in 15-20 rounds being discharged.**



**Broken trigger  
actuator rod.**

**Brass catching bag  
attachment point.**





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